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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/527,967

09/26/2005

Johann Ambrosi

740612-193

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04/01/2009

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EXAMINER

RIPLEY, JAY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/01/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/527,967	Applicant(s) AMBROSI, JOHANN	
	Examiner JAY R. RIPLEY	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,10 and 16-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,10 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Attachment A</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/27/2009 has been entered.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16-19 are pending. No claims stand withdrawn. Claims 1-6, 9, and 11-14 have been cancelled.

Drawings

The drawings were received on 02/27/2009. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16-19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 3679

In regard to claim 15, it is recited in lines 4-6, "each cam ring having a plurality of cams integrally formed in one piece with the cam ring being arranged on the periphery of the cam ring". It is unclear how the "cam ring" can have constituent members of its own structure, i.e. the "plurality of cams", arranged on itself. Applicant should simply indicate that the "plurality of cams" is arranged about the periphery of the "cam ring" or some such.

In regard to claim 19, it is recited in lines 5-6, "each cam ring having a plurality of cams integrally formed in one piece with the cam ring being arranged on the periphery of the cam ring". It is unclear how the "cam ring" can have constituent members of its own structure, i.e. the "plurality of cams", arranged on itself. Applicant should simply indicate that the "plurality of cams" is arranged about the periphery of the "cam ring" or some such.

In regard to claims 10 and 19, it is recited in lines 1-2 of each claim, "wherein blocking means are provided for locking the pair of coupling members with each other in a coupled condition" (emphasis added). It appears that the Applicant may be attempting to invoke 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. However, the written description fails to disclose the corresponding specific structure that constitutes a "blocking means" for claims interpretation. For this Office action only, the Examiner is interpreting the noted claims such that anything that performs the recited function meets the limitations of the noted claims. Applicant is required to:

Art Unit: 3679

(a) Amend the claim so that the claim limitation will no longer be a means (or step) plus function limitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph; or

(b) Amend the written description of the specification such that it expressly recites what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)).

If applicant is of the opinion that the written description of the specification already implicitly or inherently discloses the corresponding structure, material, or acts so that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function, applicant is required to clarify the record by either:

(a) Amending the written description of the specification such that it expressly recites the corresponding structure, material, or acts for performing the claimed function and clearly links or associates the structure, material, or acts to the claimed function, without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)); or

(b) Stating on the record what the corresponding structure, material, or acts, which are implicitly or inherently set forth in the written description of the specification, perform the claimed function. For more information, see 37 CFR 1.75(d) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and 2181.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

As best understood, claims 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wells (U.S. 396,093).

In regard to claims 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16-19, Wells discloses a symmetrical hose coupling comprising a pair of like coupling members (as observed in Figures 1-4, see Attachment A), each of the coupling members having a cylindrical hose attachment connector (noted in Figure 2, see Attachment A) and a cam ring integrally formed in one piece with the cylindrical hose attachment connector (noted in Figure 2, see Attachment A - the Examiner notes that the phrase "integrally formed in one piece" is not to be equated with the term "monolithic"), the connector having an outside diameter (all three dimensional objects have a "diameter"), the cam ring having a plurality of cams (each "cam ring" can be said to have two "cams" as observed in Figures 1 and 2, see Attachment A) integrally formed in one piece with the cam ring being arranged on the periphery of the cam ring and projecting from the cam ring in a radial direction, the cams having a radial width (noted in Figure 3, see Attachment A) and projecting with their radial width beyond the outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector (as plainly observed in Figure 3, see Attachment A) for defining the largest outside diameter of the coupling which is larger than the outside diameter of the connector by

Art Unit: 3679

the radial width dimension of the cams (as observed in Figure 3, see Attachment A), the cams being hook-shaped in a tangential direction of the cam ring (as observed in Figure 1, see Attachment A) and each having a radial surface area (the “radial surface areas” circled in Figure 1, see Attachment A) for transmitting an axial force, and the cams of the coupling members engaging into each other during coupling such that the radial surface areas engage behind each other (as plainly observed in Figure 1, see Attachment A);

such that an axial end face (as noted in Figure 1, see Attachment A) of the cams of one coupling member remain free in the axial direction and do not lie opposed to a surface of the cams or the cam ring of the other coupling member;

wherein the radial surface areas of the cams are inclined in relation to the tangential direction (the noted “radial surface areas” are so inclined as observed in Figure 1, see Attachment A);

wherein the cam ring has an annular front face radially inwardly of the cams and an annular undercut groove is recessed in the annular front face for receiving a shaped sealing ring having a sealing lip which protrudes axially beyond the front face of the cam ring (the recited structure is observed in Figure 4, see Attachment A);

wherein blocking means are provided for locking the pair of coupling members with each other in a coupled condition (the mere shape of the “cams” is a “blocking means” for “locking the pair of coupling members with each other in a coupled condition” against at least some degree against axial and torsional forces) .

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. New grounds of rejection were necessitated for at least the following reasons: the added limitation of "integrally formed in one piece...being" in claim 15, line 5; "having a radial width...width" in claim 15, line 7; newly presented claims 16-19. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Wells (U.S. 396,093) are advanced above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Klell (U.S. 1,300,414).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAY R. RIPLEY whose telephone number is (571)272-7535. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 1:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jay R Ripley/
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
29 March 2009

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679